

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05
/070 W

-----161339Z 110521 /40

O R 161238Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9825
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO
USEC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2908

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: ELECCIONS FORMALLY CONVOKED FOR JUNE 15. GOVERNMENT
DETERMINATION TO PROCEED ON SCHEDULE SEEN.

REF: MADRID 2897

1. THE OFFICIAL REPORT FOLLOWING THE APRIL 15. CABINET
MEETING INCLUDED REFERENCE TO A DECREE CONVOKING THE
CORTES ELECTIONS FOR JUNE 15. THOSE HOLDING "INCOMPATIBLE"
GOVT POSITIONS WILL HAVE 8 DAYS FROM PUBLICATION OF THE
DECREE IN WHICH TO RESIGN. THE OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN LIMITED
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BY LAW TO 21 DAYS, WOULD BEGIN MAY 24 AND RUN THROUGH
JUNE 13, WITH ELECTIONS WE RESERVED AS A DAY OD RELECTION"
AND CAMPAIGNING OF COURSE BARRED ON ELECTION DAY ITESELF

2. THE JUNE 15 DATE HAD BEEN RUMORED FOR SOME TIME,
AS HAD BEEN IT ANNOUCEMENT FOLLOWING THIS CABINET MEETING
IN THE WAKE OF THE ARMY'S REACTION TO THE LEGALIZATION

OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, HOWEVER, SPECULATION HAD ARISEN THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE PUT OFF. ITS EMERGENCE OF SCHEDULE SUGGEST A GOVT DETERMINATION TO ALLOW NO SWERVES OR SLOW DOWNS AS IT WINDS UP THE PRE ELECTION PHASE OF ITS TASK.

3. THE CABINET MEETING WAS PRECEDED BY THE SWEARING IN CEREMONY AT THE ZARZUELA PALACE FOR NEW NAVY MINISTER PASCUAL PERY JUNQUERA. THE FOLLOWING DAY'S PRESS WAS HEAVY IN PHOTOS SHOWING THE ASSEMBLED CABINET MINISTERS CIVILIAN AND MILIATRY, APPARENTLY CORDIAL IN THE KING'S COMAPNY.

4. MOST OF MADRID MAJOR NEWSPAPER APRIL 16 ALSO RAN A JOINT EDITORIAL (RECALLING THE ONE PUBLISHED FOLLOWING THE TERRORIAT OUTBREAK OF LATE JANUARY). THIS TIME SCORDING THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO PROVOKE THE MILITARY AGAINST THE GOVT AND THE POLTICIAL PROCESS CLAIMING THE MILITARY DID NOT RESPOND TO THOSE OBJECTIVES RECALLING CONSITUITIONAL PROVISIONS REGARDING THE RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVT AND THE ARMY, AND WARNING AGAINST FRUSTRATING THE HOPE REPRESENTED BY THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS. MISSING FROM THE LIST OF PAPERS RUNNING THE EDITORIAL ARE ALZAZAR AND THE INCREASINGLY STRIDENT ABC, NOW CLEARLY THE ALIANZA POPULAR'S VEHICLE.

5. COMMENT: THE CONVOCAION OF PARLIMAENTARY ELECTIONS ON JUNE 15 SPEAKS FOR ITSELF AS DOES THE NEAVY PHOTO COVERAGE OF THE SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR THE NAVY MINISTER
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IN FROM OF THE KING AND ATENDED BY SUAREZ AND THE ENTIRE CABINET INCLUDING THE OTHER MILITARY MINISTERS. THE FACT THAT SUAREZ CHOSE NOT TO ANNOUNCE THE ELECTIONS PERSONALLY VIA TV (REF REPORTED HE WAS CONTEMPLATING THIS STEP) IS MUCH LESS IMPORTATN THAT THE CONFIRMATION THE ELECTORIAL PROCES IS ON THE TREACKS. SUREZ IS KEEPING HIS PROMOSE TO HAVE ELECTIONS BEFORE JUNE 30 AS HE HAS ALWAYS INTENDED. WHAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IS THE EFFECT ON SUAREZ ELECTORAL OPTIONS WHICH THE ALIZANZA POPULAR AND IT MILITARY ALLIES APPARENTLY SEEK TO LIMIT OR FORECLOSE. AND ALSO UPON THE ELECTORAL FORTUNES OF THE ALIANZA, WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN SOME TING OF A BOOST BY THE FUROR OVE THE PCE LEGALIZATION. WITH REGARD TO SUAREZ OPTIONS, IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT THE ALIANZA HAS NOT BEEN ALONE IN WANTING SUAREZ NOT TO BECOME A OVERT LEADER OF A POLITICAL FORMATION. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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